OLIVE GARDEN
THIS WEEKEND
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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Saturday 20th September 2025
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BEWARE!

MENACE of senior citizens in city terrorised by fake accidents RETURNS

Terrified senior citizen forced to pay Rs. 85,000 to extortionists

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (BCT)- In a disturbing incident that raises serious concerns over public safety and the vulnerability of senior citizens in Mysuru city, a 70-year-old resident of Dattagalli was allegedly coerced into paying Rs. 85,000 by two men near Shanthi Sagar Junction in Kuvempunagar on Thursday evening (Sept. 18).

The shocking case has sparked fear among residents, especially the elderly, as roadside extortion incidents appear to be on the rise ahead of Dasara festivities. A complaint has been lodged at Kuvempunagar Police Station.

(See SENIOR CITIZEN on page 5)

Police suspect organised gang targeting elderly

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (RK&BCT)- Reacting to the extortion incident, Kuvempunagar Inspector Yogesh informed *Star of Mysore* that a spot mahazar was conducted in the presence of the victim. CCTV footage from nearby shops and junctions is currently being reviewed to identify and arrest the culprits.

Yogesh

"This appears to be the work of organised professional criminals who deliberately target senior citizens," he said adding, "They are operating in crowded areas — even during the Dasara season — despite knowing that Police presence is heightened. We have stepped up surveillance in Kuvempunagar, Saraswathipuram, Dattagalli, Rajarajeshwarinagar and J.P. Nagar."

Kuvempunagar Police Station Inspector Yogesh expressed confidence that the suspects would be traced and arrested within the next couple of days.

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Saturday 20th September 2025

STAR PUNCH

By Satish Acharya

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

THE GIFT OF TIME WE STILL HAVE: ***In a typical day, my friend went through life like anyone else. She had no signs, no drama and no reason to stop. Suddenly, without warning, a sharp pain gripped her chest. Soon after, she found herself in a hospital, her life hanging by a thread. Immediate medical care and intervention saved her, but the complications she faced made her survival seem miraculous. She told me, "It was a near-death experience and I am back." As Seneca once wrote, "It is not that we have a short time to live, but that we waste much of it." Those words echoed in my mind as I watched her recover. We live as if we were promised eternity, filling our days with endless work and chasing achievements while neglecting what is truly important. But life has a way of showing us that our time is not infinite and that the luxury of "later" is an illusion.***

Moments like this shatter the illusion we live by. In ancient wisdom, the human body is likened to a temple, a sacred space that harbours the divine spirit and soul. Our body is more than just flesh and bone; it's considered a holy vessel of our soul. Yet, we treat it as an afterthought — feeding it poorly, pushing it too hard and ignoring its quiet pleas for rest. We act as if our bodies will always obey, until one day they don't. We often read about the importance of health and advise others, but we don't follow our advice. We usually convince ourselves that relaxation and health can wait until the next project is finished, the next promotion is earned or the next problem is solved. We believe that love, laughter and self-care will come "later." But we don't realise that 'later' is not a promise; it's a gamble. A gamble that we are willing to take. The truth is, we waste more of our lives postponing than truly living. My friend's close call with death changed her. She prays every morning, eats mindfully and protects her mental and physical health as fiercely as her commitments.

Let us take a moment to watch a sunset instead of rushing past. Let us stop living for "someday" and begin to embrace each moment as if it's our last. Because one day, it will be. Perhaps Seneca's warning is what we all need to hear. Life is not too short, but our careless living makes it seem that way. We cannot extend time, but we can choose not to waste it. And the best time to make that choice is now, before life stops us in our tracks. — *Anitha Ramachander in Deccan Herald*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Grave-digging Championship

Budapest: Grave diggers from around the world gather in Hungary to compete in the International Grave Digging Championship. Since 2016 (except in 2020 and 2021), Hungary's Association of Cemetery Operators and Maintainers (MTFE) has been inviting grave diggers from all over the world to compete for the title of World Grave Digging Champions.

Working in teams of two, grave diggers test their abilities by digging graves that are 2 mts long, 80 cms wide, and 1.6 mts deep within two hours and then shovelling the dirt back into the holes to create a neat burial mound. Speed, accuracy, and attention to detail are the main criteria by which contestants are judged.

The eighth International Grave Digging Championship was held on Sept. 6 and Hungarian team Parakletosz Nonprofit Kft managed to bag first prize for the second year, with an enviable time of just over an hour and a half.

Stuntman pulls a car while on fire

Vienna: An Austrian daredevil lit his body on fire and pulled a car a distance of 328 ft. in 56.42 seconds to earn a Guinness World Records title.

Josef Tödtling became the first person to hold the record for fastest 100 mt car pull in full body burn when he completed the stunt in Vienna.

A video showed Tödtling pulling the car while a member of his support team keeps a fire extinguisher ready to put out the flames if anything went wrong. His support team used three fire extinguishers to keep his body from burning.

Tödtling has multiple records that involved setting himself on fire, longest duration full body burn without oxygen (5.41 minutes); farthest distance pulled by a vehicle (1,909.5 ft.); fastest 200 mts cycle during a full body burn (49.55 seconds) and farthest distance full body burn on a zip wire (201.60 feet).

HEALTH CAPSULE

Can stress make psoriasis worse ?

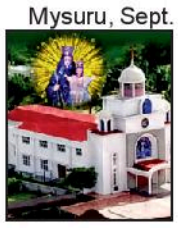
Yes, stress is a common trigger for flare-ups.

By Dr. Ravi S. - Consultant – Dermatology and Cosmetology
Manipal Hospital, Mysuru

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Annual Feast at Arogyamathe Church



Mysuru, Sept. 20 - Brindavana Arogyamathe Church at Hulikere, KRS Road, Srirangapatna taluk, will be celebrating its annual church feast on Sept. 21.

Solemn Festal Mass will be conducted by Rev. Fr. J. Shanth Kumar, Professor at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bengaluru, at 10.30 am. A procession will be taken out at 6 pm followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Raymond, Religious Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Parish Council and Parishioners will grace the event.

Selected for Yogasri Award

Nandini

Mysuru, Sept. 20- As part of Dasara festivities, Yoga Dasara Sub-Committee has organised Yoga Dasara and Dance-Drama on Sept. 22 at 5 pm at the Platinum Jubilee Auditorium of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, JK Grounds.

Following the inauguration, 'Yogasri' award will be conferred on the following Yoga achievers: Nandini Murthy, N. Asha Devi, N. Pashupathi, R. Shyalaja and Manikantan.

AGM of United Minorities Co-op.

Mysuru, Sept. 20- United Minorities Credit Co-operative Society Ltd., Azeez Sait Double Road Cross, Rajivnagar, will be holding its 28th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) for the year 2024-25, on Sept. 21 at 10 am at the Society premises. Society President S. Moinuddin Pasha will preside. An Urdu Mushayara will be held in the evening, according to a press release.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **123.55 feet**	Today's level **2,282.32 feet**	Today's level **2,857.98 feet**
Last year's level **124.66 feet**	Last year's level **2,283.14 feet**	Last year's level **2,858.32 feet**
Yesterday's level **123.54 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,282.35 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,858.11 feet**
Today's Inflow **6,819 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **1,753 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **1,119 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **6,455 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **1,850 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **1,600 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- *The hottest desert in the world is the Sahara Desert. Located in Africa, the average temperature is around 30°C (86°F), but the hottest temperature ever recorded is 58°C (136.4°F).*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Mother: How was the exam son? How were the questions?
Son: The questions were very fine. But the problem was writing the answers!

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 88.09
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 118.69
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 23.98
1 Euro	= Rs. 103.45

VOICE OF THE READER

Garbage staff distributing caste survey detail forms?

Sir,

I have learnt through the newspapers that caste survey is yet to take off. Surprisingly, garbage-collection staff deployed by Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) are distributing the subject form in Ward Number 52, with information to furnish whether the Aadhaar card is linked to personal phones. My observations on the form:

1. Name of the Department that has issued the survey form, under what authority is the form issued?

2. In the form, phone number, voter's ID and Aadhaar card number of the declarant and family members are sought.

3. The distributing person has informed that the declarant has to mention whether the Aadhaar card is linked to the phone.

4. No provision for authentication of the declared information.

My concern is that, in the absence of a specific Government order, the distribution of the survey form seeking personal information is highly irregular.

Secondly, what are the safety measures taken to safeguard the personal information furnished by the declarant in the backdrop of cybercrime? Does the Government have any powers to seek the personal information of the declarants and under what law?

—S. Prakash

Mysuru 19.9.2025

Cycle Pure Agarbathi gifts

Electric Buggy to Chamundi Temple

Arjun Ranga, Managing Director, Cycle Pure Agarbathi and his mother Jannavi Murthy handing over the keys of the electric buggy vehicle to M.J. Roopa, Secretary, Sri Chamundeshwari Temple Development Authority in Mysuru yesterday.

Mysuru, Sept. 20- Marking the momentous occasion of Mysuru Dasara, Cycle Pure Agarbathi, India's most trusted incense brand, handed over the keys of a newly gifted electric buggy to M.J. Roopa, Secretary, Sri Chamundeshwari Temple Development Authority in city yesterday.

This eco-friendly vehicle will serve senior citizens and differently-abled devotees, ensuring ease of movement and a more inclusive spiritual experience within the temple premises.

As Mysuru readies itself for the influx of pilgrims and tourists during the festive season, the electric buggy stands as a testament to Cycle Pure's enduring commitment to community care and cultural preservation.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Arjun Ranga, Managing Director, Cycle Pure Agarbathi, said, "Chamundi Hill is the spiritual heartbeat of Mysuru. As we step into the sacred season of Dasara and Navaratri, it is our privilege to serve devotees who come here. The electric buggy is a humble offering to ensure that age or physical ability never becomes a barrier to devotion."

In a parallel celebration of the divine feminine, Cycle Pure Agarbathi also unveiled its Durgeshwari Navaratri Pack with Book, a devotional ensemble crafted to honour the nine sacred forms of Goddess Durga.

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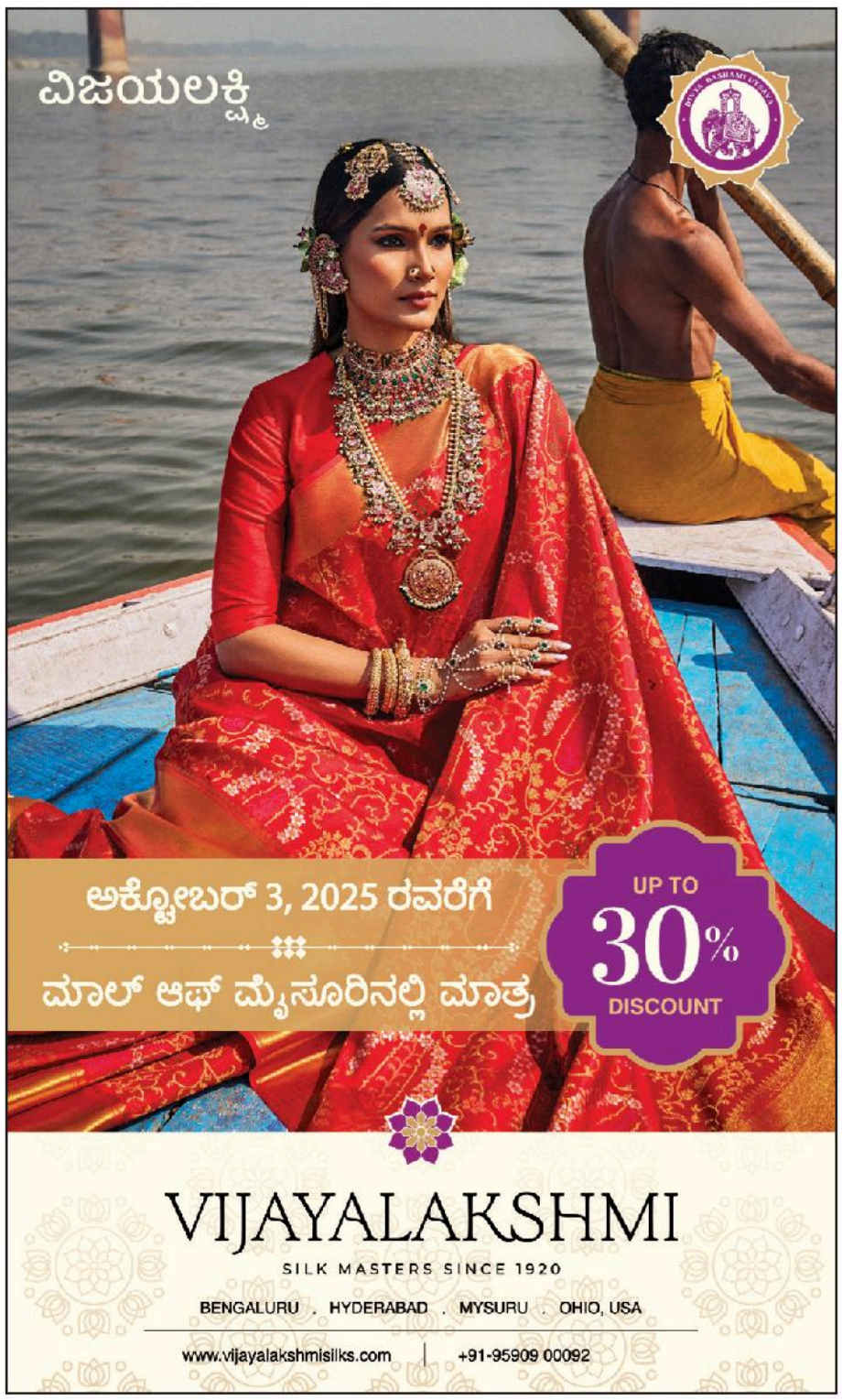


NEWS BRIEFS

Talk session

Mysore Literary Association has organised a talk on 'Bharat's Journey Towards NET ZERO - Contribution of Biofuels and its Evolving Ecosystem' by Y.B. Ramakrishna, Senior Vice-President, Indian Federation of Green Energy, Member, Biofuel Monitoring Committee, MNRE, Govt. of India, at 11 am on Sunday (Sept. 21) at Kalpa Kshetra, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, 1st Phase, Mysuru. For details, call Mob: 94498-19536.

Annual Meetings

JSS Hostels Alumni Housing Co-operative Society, Mysuru, will be holding its Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) at Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Anubhava Mantapa, Sri Shivarathri Rajendranagar, near Varuna Lake, in the taluk at 11 am tomorrow (Sept. 21). The meeting will be presided by Society President and former DGP L. Revannasiddaiah.

Nekarara Housing Co-operative Society, Mysuru, will hold its AGM at The President Hotel, near KSRTC Sub-Urban Bus Stand, B.N. Road, at 11 am on Sept. 24. For details, contact Mob: 82177-08175.

Two-day Balodyana Dasara

Sri Viveka Balodyana Public School will be organising a two-day Balodyana Dasara at its premises in Jayanagar from Sept. 22. The institution has organised various events including Doll Show between 11.30 am and 8.30 pm on Sept. 22 and from 9.30 am to 1 pm on Sept. 23. This apart, cultural programmes will be held on Sept. 22 from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm and Makkala Santhe on Sept. 23 from 8 am.

Ph.D awardees

K.U. Jayalakshmi has been awarded Ph.D. in Commerce/ School of Economics and Commerce by the CMR University for her thesis titled 'Application of Theory of Technological Acceptance Model (TAM) and Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) Model as Predictors of Online Stock Trading Behaviour: A Systematic Analysis' submitted under the guidance of Dr. H.L. Chidananda.

B. Nagesha has been awarded Ph.D in Kannada by the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru, for his thesis 'Basavanna mattu Kuvempu Avara Vycharikathe: Thoulanika Adhyayana' submitted under the guidance of Dr. N.R. Chandregowda.

Two-phase security for safe Mysuru Dasara

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (BCT)- In preparation for a safe, smooth and culturally vibrant Dasara, the Mysuru City Police have drawn up comprehensive security arrangements, introducing a two-phase deployment strategy to ensure effective crowd management and a quick response to any incidents.

Addressing a press conference in the city yesterday, City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar announced that the first phase of security will be in place from Sept. 22 to Sept. 29, followed by the second phase from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2.

A massive security force comprising 6,384 Civil and Traffic Police personnel, 35 platoons of the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP), 15 platoons of the City Armed Reserve (CAR) and District Armed Reserve (DAR), one Garuda Force Unit, one Rapid Action Force (RAF) Unit, a 29-member Anti-Sabotage Check (ASC) team and 1,200 Home Guards will be deployed across the city.

DG&IGP Dr. M.A. Saleem inspecting the Dasara bandobust with City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, DCPs K.S. Sundar Raj and R.N. Bindu Mani at Mysore Palace premises on Wednesday.

Security net

The operations will be overseen by five Superintendents of Police (SPs), supported by 30 Deputy SPs and 40 Inspectors, who will be stationed to manage crowds, monitor traffic and respond to emergencies.

The security net will cover all Dasara events and venues, including the inaugural ceremony at Chamundi Hill, cultural programmes at Exhibition Grounds, wrestling competitions, Flower Show, Food Mela, Book Fair, Illumination routes, Yuva Dasara, Air Show, *Jumboo Savari* procession and Torchlight Parade at Bannimantap Parade Grounds.

Additionally, 26 ambulances and 32 fire tenders, along with their respective teams, will be stationed at strategic points, including the Mysore Palace premises on the day of *Jumboo Savari,* near the Mysore Palace gates, at key locations along the Dasara procession route and at the Bannimantap Grounds during the Torchlight Parade.

Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) R.N. Bindu Mani (Law and Order) and K.S. Sundar Raj (Crime and Traffic) were also present during the briefing.

Enhanced surveillance with CCTV, drone cameras

To ensure public safety and monitor crowd movements, CCTV cameras will be installed across Mysuru, Latkar said.

Key locations such as Chamundi Hill, Mysore Palace and Bannimantap — where major events are held — will be equipped with 200 CCTV cameras. Additionally, Police will integrate footage from 34,616 cameras already installed in private offices and residences across the city via its dedicated surveillance app. This will enable real-time monitoring of surrounding areas.

This year, the use of drone cameras will also be significantly increased. These aerial units will assist in observing crowd dynamics and preventing any untoward incidents by providing instant visual updates of critical zones.

Booklet on public safety guidelines

The Police have also released a special booklet containing essential guidelines for the public to ensure safety and security during the festivities.

The booklet additionally details the duties of Police personnel and expected standards of conduct, emphasising courteous and effective service throughout the celebrations.

43 PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS

To ensure smooth traffic flow and public communication, 43 public address systems will be operational between Sept. 22 and Oct. 1 at key city junctions and tourist destinations.

On Oct. 2, the day of *Jumboo Savari,* 33 additional systems manned by Civil Police will be positioned near all Palace Gates and along the procession route.

POLICE HELP DESKS AT 12 LOCATIONS TO ASSIST TOURISTS

- Babu Jagjivan Ram Circle (near Railway Station)
- Varaha Gate of Mysore Palace
- K.R. Circle
- St. Philomena's Church
- Sub-Urban Bus Stand
- Gandhi Square
- Mysuru Zoo
- Main entrance of Dasara Exhibition Grounds
- Manipal Hospital Junction
- Nanjangud Road-Ring Road Junction
- Deve Gowda Circle
- Hootagalli Junction (Hunsur Road)

Personnel at these desks will provide information on Dasara events, one-way traffic plans and parking arrangements. Serious complaints will be referred to respective jurisdictional Police Stations.

Rapid Action Force (RAF) Unit during a briefing session in front of Palace North Gate.

Police ban sale and use of vuvuzelas

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (BCT)- In a move aimed at preserving public peace during Dasara, the Mysuru City Police have officially banned the sale and use of vuvuzelas — popularly known as toy trumpets or 'tuthoori' in Kannada.

Issuing the order on Sept. 18, City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar invoked Section 35 of the Karnataka Police Act to prohibit the use of these noise-making instruments under the jurisdiction of the Mysuru City Police Commissionerate.

The decision follows multiple complaints from citizens and tourists over the years, particularly during Dasara, regarding the disruptive use of vuvuzelas in public spaces. Authorities noted that individuals had been blowing these trumpets near people's ears in crowded areas, causing discomfort and annoyance.

The Police emphasised that such behaviour constitutes a public nuisance, as it affects public health, safety, morality and infringes upon the rights of others. Under the Karnataka Police Act, 1963 and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, public nuisance is recognised as a criminal offence.

The Commissioner warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone found violating the ban and directed all Police personnel to enforce the order rigorously throughout the festive period.

Intensified social media vigil to curb misinformation

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (BCT)- To curb misinformation and safeguard public safety during Dasara, the Mysuru City Police have ramped up their digital vigilance by strengthening their Social Media Monitoring Cell with additional manpower.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar announced that 52 officers will be deployed to monitor social media platforms round-the-clock.

Their primary mandate is to detect and take swift action against the circulation of fake news, misleading content and provocative posts that could disturb public harmony or disrupt the festive spirit.

Issuing a stern warning, Commissioner Latkar cautioned against uploading outdated videos or reels aimed at inciting fear or spreading negativity. "Social media posting must be responsible," she stressed, urging citizens to refrain from engaging in any activity that could mislead the public or tarnish the celebratory atmosphere of Dasara.

Registration for skills competition

Mysuru, Sept. 20- In order to make the State a model one in terms of skills competence, the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation has organised 'India Skills Competition - Karnataka - 2025'.

The winners of this contest become eligible to represent India in the World Skills Competition to be held at Shanghai in China in 2026. There is no prescribed qualification and skilled candidates in the age group of 16 to 25 years can take part. The last date for registration is Sept. 30.

For more details, contact the Office of the District Skill Development Officer, Mysuru on Ph: 0821-2970815, according to a press release.

Obituary

N. Bettaiah

Mysuru, Sept. 20- N. Bettaiah (96), a resident of Agrahara in the city, passed away here yesterday.

He was the Founder-President of Mysuru-Chamarajanagar District Vokkaligara Sangha and had served as the President of Hattoo Janagala Eswhara Garadi located on Hullina Beedi in the city.

He leaves behind his son B. Ramachandra, a businessman, daughters Umadevi, Rukmini and Hemavathi and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites will be held at Jayanagar burial grounds later today.

Menace of senior citizens in city terrorised by fake accidents returns

(Continued from page 1)

The victim, K.R. Lakshmish, a retired professional and long-time Mysuru resident, was returning home to Dattagalli around 5.50 pm when he encountered a traffic jam. As he inched forward, someone tapped the rear of his car. Almost immediately, a man on a motorcycle blocked his vehicle and ordered him to open the door. Lakshmish complied, and to his shock, the man who tapped his car flung the door open, jumped into the front passenger seat, and accused him of injuring his pillion-riding brother.

Hurling abuses

The intruder alleged that Lakshmish had been driving recklessly, swerving from right to left and that his brother had sustained a serious ankle injury requiring urgent medical attention.

"Though I repeatedly told him that I was driving carefully and hadn't hit anyone, he was extremely aggressive, abusive, and used filthy language. He even raised his hands to hit me," Lakshmish recounted in his complaint.

"Out of fear, I offered to accompany him to see his brother, provide medical help, and pay for treatment if I was indeed at fault. But he threatened me, saying that if I went there, the mob at the spot would demand Rs. 2 to 3 lakh," he added.

Intimidating tactics

The accused, who identified himself as 'Nayaz', then suggested a 'settlement' for a smaller amount to avoid the crowd and Police trouble. Using intimidation and foul language, he pressured Lakshmish into making multiple payments via PhonePe.

"He initially demanded Rs. 30,000 and gave me a number for an online transfer, but it didn't work. I told him I had Rs. 25,000 in cash and handed it over for supposed hospital expenses," Lakshmish said.

"He then stepped out, made a phone call, and returned, saying his people were demanding Rs. 30,000. He forced me to scan a QR code, which displayed multiple bank accounts, and I transferred Rs. 30,000. Minutes later, he made another call and began yelling again, claiming the injured person was still lying on the road. Under intense pressure, I transferred another Rs. 30,000," Lakshmish added.

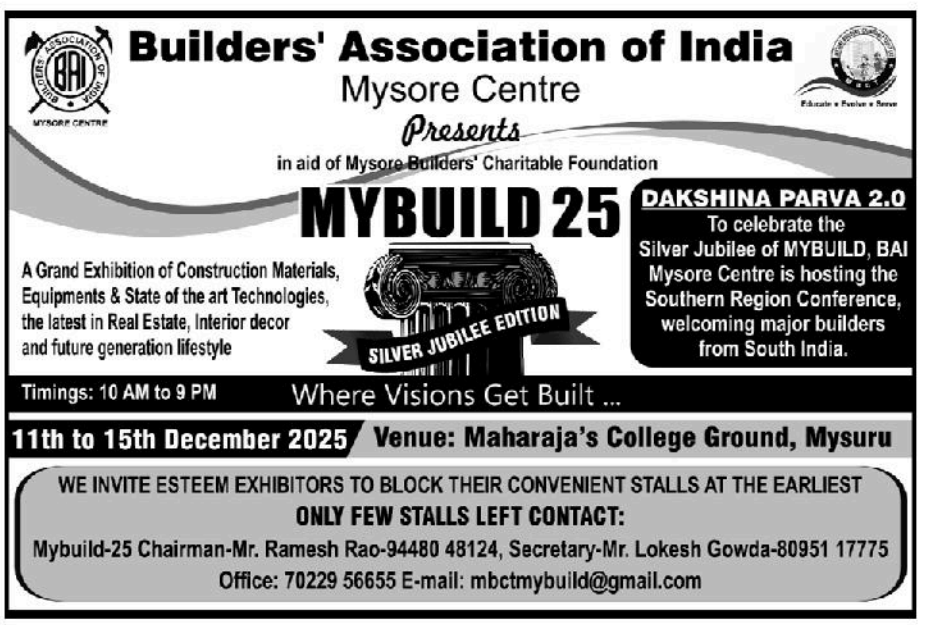
Maharashtra account

In total, Lakshmish paid Rs. 85,000 — Rs. 25,000 in cash and Rs. 60,000 through PhonePe. The digital transactions were traced to an account registered under S.N. Trading Co., which, to his surprise, showed its location as Maharashtra.

Despite the accused's dramatic claims, Lakshmish later noted there was no damage to his vehicle and no evidence of any accident. "I was terribly shaken. At 70 years of age, I was terrified by their threats and aggression," he told *Star of Mysore*.

Deeply traumatised, Lakshmish rushed to the Kuvempunagar Police Station immediately after the ordeal. "I was in shock, my hands were trembling, and I couldn't write the complaint myself. The next day, Friday (Sept. 19), I submitted a typed-out complaint to the Inspector," he said.

The Police showed Lakshmish photographs of known criminals, and he identified one of the suspects. "The Police have assured me that they will arrest the culprits soon," he added.


Builders' Association of India
Mysore Centre
Presents
in aid of Mysore Builders' Charitable Foundation
MYBUILD 25
DAKSHINA PARVA 2.0
To celebrate the Silver Jubilee of MYBUILD, BAI Mysore Centre is hosting the Southern Region Conference, welcoming major builders from South India.
A Grand Exhibition of Construction Materials, Equipments & State of the art Technologies, the latest in Real Estate, Interior decor and future generation lifestyle
SILVER JUBILEE EDITION
Timings: 10 AM to 9 PM
Where Visions Get Built ...
11th to 15th December 2025
Venue: Maharaja's College Ground, Mysuru
WE INVITE ESTEEM EXHIBITORS TO BLOCK THEIR CONVENIENT STALLS AT THE EARLIEST
ONLY FEW STALLS LEFT CONTACT:
Mybuild-25 Chairman-Mr. Ramesh Rao-94480 48124, Secretary-Mr. Lokesh Gowda-80951 17775
Office: 70229 56655 E-mail: mbctmybuild@gmail.com

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Indonesia Bali Pavilion
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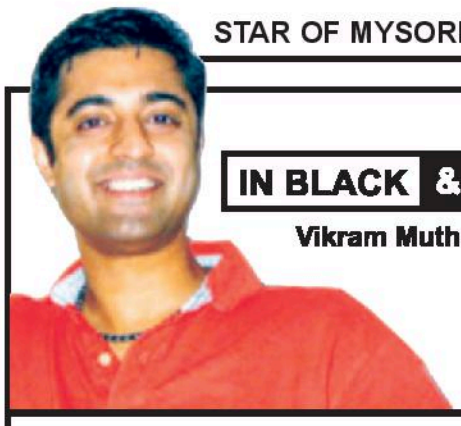
ENTRY FREE
19th to 29 September 2025
9611176669 | 8369725633
G L N CONVENTION HALL, BOGADI RING ROAD, MYSORE

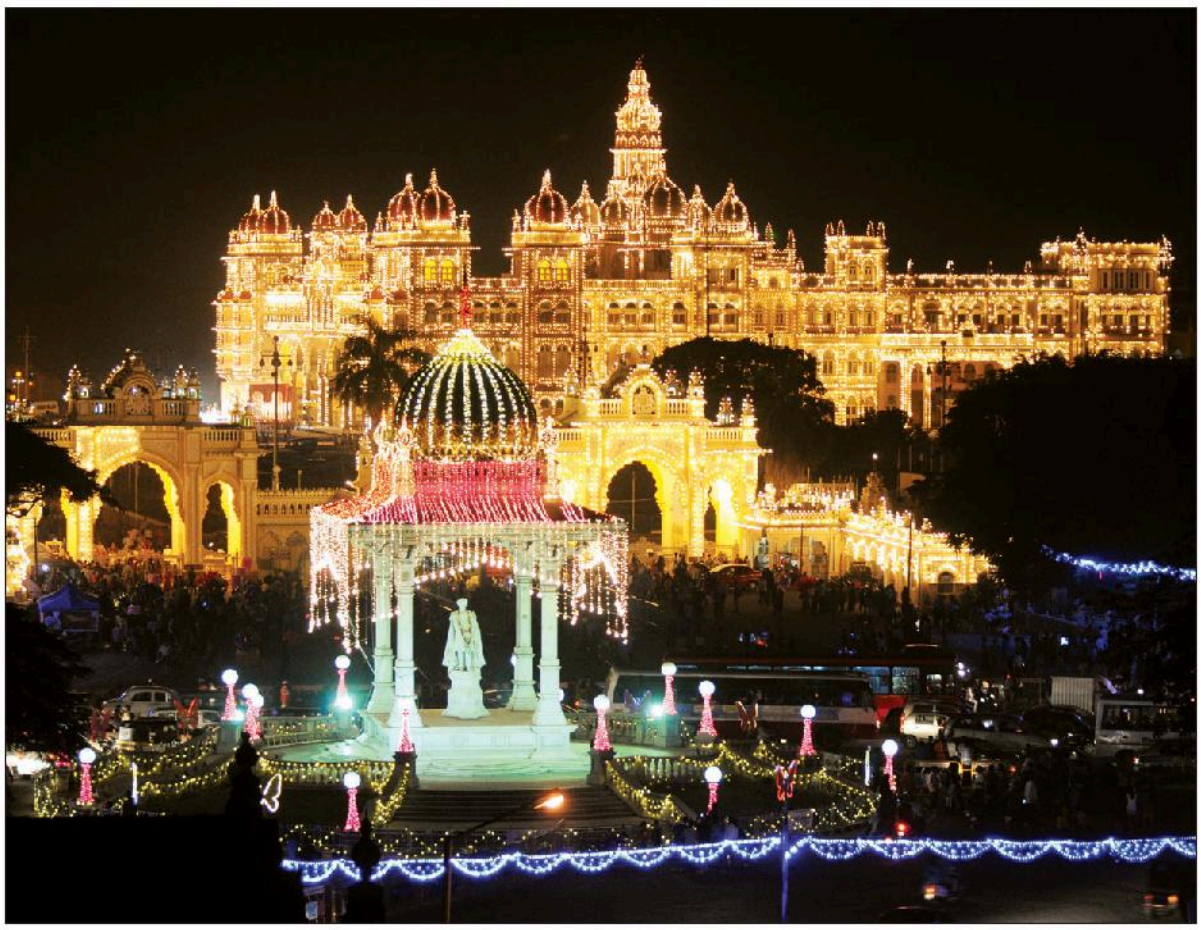


IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Dasara

Mysuru's Botox Shot



Dasara is here and so Mysuru gets its annual Botox shots. Which means Mysuru has once again been given its annual facelift.

Roads are hastily patched, heritage buildings get a dubious lump of paint and traffic medians get back their yellow and black colours.

It's the city's seasonal 'quick-fix mode' and like all quick fixes, it looks good only under the glow of fairy lights.

If it takes a 10-day (11 this year) festival to get basic civic maintenance done, perhaps the only way forward is to have more festivals.

For Mysuru to thrive, Dasara must be more than a local carnival; it must be our ticket to the world stage as a city of events. Which means Dasara needs scale, sophistication and international appeal.

Once upon a time, Dasara was a regal affair. Foreigners flocked here, spending lavishly, while locals enjoyed well-curated cultural programmes. Today, it feels more like a chaotic street fair. Tickets are scarce, venues overcrowded, traffic unmanageable.

Yuva Dasara is enjoyable, but a nightmare to get to and exit, which sucks the joy out of it. The much-touted Food Mela offers neither gourmet nor hygiene.

The exhibition is a suffocating mass of humanity with mediocre stalls and events. Even the illuminations, beautiful as they are, create gridlock with selfie-hunters clogging roads.

Even if it's all mediocre, it's still enjoyable but it lacks global appeal.

Even the crown jewel, the *Jumboo Savari.* Sadly, it is now a jumbo mess. The tableaux look like replays from the 1990s, the dance troupes and blaring bands are unchanged and the sight of poor Abhimanyu carrying 750 kilos of Golden Howdah through a human obstacle course of attention-seekers desperate to get on TV makes one cringe and stay away.

The problem is not with tradition; it is with execution. Dasara is still managed by the Deputy Commissioner (DC). An able administrator, no doubt, but no event manager.

How is he supposed to run Mysuru and manage Dasara? Expecting the DC to run the district and organise an international festival is like asking a pilot to serve coffee in the middle of a turbulence. At this point, he might as well be asked to carry the Howdah too.

Around the world, grand festivals are handled by professionals. They are run by seasoned event managers who understand logistics, crowd control, sponsorships, spectacle and churning out a profit. Why should Mysuru be any different?

Bring in the professionals. Let them handle the floats, the food stalls, the ticketing, the marketing. With the right vision, Dasara could be regal again and even profitable.

> **"Dasara is more than a tradition; it is Mysuru's annual adrenaline shot. It brings in tourists, revenue, business and pride. But this pride cannot be seasonal. A city that shines only for 10 days a year is not a 'heritage city' but a movie set. What Mysuru needs is continuity. A cultural calendar that extends beyond October...**
>
> **Illumination is not frivolous; it is emotional architecture. Without it, Dasara would feel incomplete. Without illumination, Dasara would feel like a wedding without the bride."**

Without it, Dasara will slide further into 'jathre' territory, just a bigger, louder version of a village fair.

Even Dasara's most beloved feature, the illumination, comes with its own dark side. Wires and cables are wound around roadside trees, nails hammered in, bark damaged.

This year, Mysore Grahakara Parishat staged an *'Appiko Chaluvali,'* hugging illuminated trees in protest. Their timing is questionable, even laughable.

Why wait until three days before the festival to register your protest when lights had been strung up for weeks? Still, their point stands: Nails scar trees permanently.

But protests, however, must also bring solutions. If not on trees, how else can the city sparkle?

May be creative alternatives like pole-mounted lights, building projections, etc. must be explored. Because, like it or not, lights matter.

A 2014 Journal of Consumer Psychology study found that bright festive lighting boosts dopamine, our 'feel-good' chemical.

Illumination is not frivolous; it is emotional architecture. Without it, Dasara would feel incomplete. Without illumination, Dasara would feel like a wedding without the bride.

Dasara is more than a tradition; it is Mysuru's annual adrenaline shot. It brings in tourists, revenue, business and pride. But this pride cannot be seasonal. A city that shines only for 10 days a year is not a 'heritage city' but a movie set.

What Mysuru needs is continuity. A cultural calendar that extends beyond October. More international conferences, art festivals, music residencies and Yoga retreats.

Big events create scrutiny; scrutiny creates accountability; accountability creates good governance. Dasara must not just be an annual spectacle. It must be Mysuru's calling card to the world.

For now, thanks to Dasara, Mysuru is at least cleaned, lit and momentarily beautified. But a city should not glow only when it knows it is being watched. A true heritage city shines year-round, because it wants to.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

REEL & ROW

Woman shoots videos with Dasara jumbos; Netizens flag security concerns; Forest Dept. calls out offence; Tracing her to impose fine

Mysuru, Sept. 20(MTY&BS)- Unabated fad for making reels is now at the centre of controversy, with a woman shooting videos with Dasara elephants, camping at the premises of Mysore Palace recently, in the thick of the night.

The stealthy act of the woman, hoodwinking the Policemen on guard, has raised many eyebrows, especially on social media, with netizens venting their anguish on the authorities concerned for being lax in their duty.

In the video that has gone viral, a woman is seen holding the elephant tusk and caressing the pachyderm, while an elephant caretaker stands behind, which has generated quite a buzz.

It is said that, about five to six days ago, a woman, believed to be from the city itself, came in a car to the Palace premises. She, along with the help of another, shot videos by posing with five to six Dasara elephants, using a cell phone camera with flash for lighting in the dark.

Subsequently, the video was uploaded on social media, only to invite the wrath of others, who questioned as to who permitted the woman to access the elephants in the night hours, when it is totally prohibited to take any photos or videos with Dasara elephants in the morning hours.

Replying to a query over the same issue, DCF Dr. I.B. Prabhu Gowda denied granting any permission to that woman to shoot the videos. The woman, escaping the watchful eyes of Forest personnel, has done so. The action is being taken to trace that woman, he added.

"We have already imposed a fine of Rs. 1,000 on each of the three such unruly individuals for trespassing into the restricted area of elephants. If such acts are repeated, action will be invoked against the offenders by booking a case against them under the Forest Conservation Act," warned the DCF.

He also appealed general public and the tourists to cooperate with mahouts and kavadis of Dasara elephants and the Forest Department, who make cumbersome efforts in leading the Dasara elephants, amid the hustle and bustle of traffic and tourists in public.

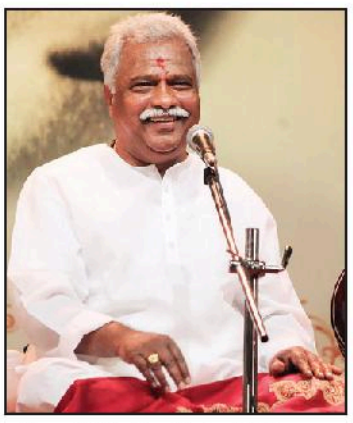
It is better to avoid coming in the way of elephants unnecessarily, without disturbing the pachyderms. With *Jumboo Savari* procession scheduled for Oct. 2, the Forest Department holds the challenge of meticulously nurturing the elephants for the main day.

The people should volunteer to join hands with the Forest Department and follow timely instructions, towards the upkeep of the elephants, without any qualms.

Rajya Sangeetha Vidwan Award for Pandit M. Venkatesh Kumar

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (BCT)- Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Pandit M. Venkatesh Kumar has been selected for the prestigious Rajya Sangeetha Vidwan Award, presented annually by Department of Kannada & Culture during Mysuru Dasara.

Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi announced the selection this morning. The selection was made by a committee headed by Dr. Y.K. Muddukrishna.



Pandit M. Venkatesh Kumar

One of the towering figures in Hindustani music, Pt. Venkatesh Kumar is celebrated both nationally and internationally for his exceptional musical contributions.

The award will be conferred by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sept. 22 at 5 pm during the inauguration of Dasara Cultural Programmes in front of the Mysore Palace.

The award includes a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh, a citation and a memento.

CM to take part in 'Nadageethe-100 Sambhrama' in Mysuru on Sept. 23

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (MTY&DM)- With Poet Laureate Kuvempu scripted 'Kannada Nadageethe' having completed 100 years in 2024, University of Mysore (UoM), in association with Dasara Kavigoshti Sub-Committee, will hold 'Nadageethe-100 Sambhrama' event at Open Air Theatre in Manasagangothri at 9.30 am on Sept. 23.

Announcing this at a press meet at Open Air Theatre this morning, UoM Registrar M.K. Savitha said, Rashtrakavi Kuvempu had written Nadageethe *(Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujathe, Jayahe Karnataka Mathe...)* in 1924 itself when he was 20 years old under his then pen-name 'Kishora Chandravani.' This Nadageethe was endorsed by Kannada Sahitya Parishat in 1971 and officially adopted as the State Anthem in 2004, marking the birth centenary celebrations of the Poet Laureate, she said.

Pointing out that Siddaramaiah will take part in the chorus singing of Nadageethe (which is of 2.5 minutes duration) at 9.30 am on Sept. 23, Savitha said, about 20,000 college students will take part in the event. Following the celebration, the 5-day Dasara Kavigoshti (Poets Meet) will also be inaugurated at the venue in the presence of the CM, she said adding that a rehearsal of Nadageethe will be held at Open Air Theatre on Sept. 22.

Dasara Kavigoshti Sub-Committee Working President and Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies (KIKS) Director Prof. N.K. Lolakshi, who also spoke, said that the Dasara Kavigoshti will take place at B.M. Shri auditorium in KIKS, Manasagangothri, from Sept. 23 to 27.

Noted writer Dr. Aravind Malagatti will inaugurate the event at Open Air Theatre in the presence of the CM soon after the conclusion of 'Nadageethe-100 Sambhrama' event at 10.30 am.

The theme of this year's Kavigoshti is 'Pancha Kavyadouthana,' featuring Pravasa Kavigoshti, Prachura Kavigoshti, Prajwala Kavigoshti, Pratibha Kavigoshti and Prabuddha Kavigoshti. Several noted poets and writers from across the State will take part, Prof. Lolakshi added.

Students to boycott classes on Sept. 27

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (SPN &DM)- Strongly condemning the State Government's long delay in the appointment of Guest Lecturers in Government Degree Colleges, the AIDSO (All India Democratic Students' Organisation) has given a Statewide boycott of classes by Government Degree College students on Sept. 27.

The AIDSO Mysuru District Secretary Nithin, in a press release, said that the future of thousands of students studying in Government Degree Colleges is in jeopardy due to lack of lecturers in Degree Colleges.

Though the students had drawn the attention of the Government in this regard many times by staging demonstrations, nothing much has happened as Guest Lecturers are not appointed, resulting in loss of classes and suspension of many other academic activities. As such, the students have no option other than registering their protest by boycotting classes on Sept. 27, the release said.

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Caste census a ploy to break Hindu unity: Prathap Simha

Urges religious leaders to raise their voice against CM Siddaramaiah's 'divisive agenda'

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (BLU&BCT)- Former MP Prathap Simha has urged Hindu religious leaders and heads of various religious mutts to raise a united and strong voice against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accusing him of sowing divisions within Hindu society through his caste-related policies.

Prathap Simha

Addressing reporters in Mysuru yesterday, Simha alleged that Siddaramaiah is resorting to calculated political manoeuvres to safeguard his position. "By pushing for a caste survey under the pretext of studying social and economic status, he is taking strategic steps to secure his chair," Simha charged.

He highlighted that the Union Government is already conducting a comprehensive socio-economic survey alongside the national census to gather data on family income, education, and social status, which would help frame Central Government policies and programmes.

However, Simha accused Siddaramaiah of deliberately misrepresenting this exercise as a caste census to deepen divisions among Hindus.

Simha further alleged that the survey conducted by the Karnataka Government includes references to the original caste of Christians, making the community appear numerically larger than it actually is. "Even Ministers voiced strong opposition to this during the recent Cabinet meeting," he claimed.

He cautioned that listing Hindu castes and sub-castes separately while presenting Christians as a single block could create a distorted demographic picture. "This is a deliberate ploy to weaken Hindu unity," Simha said, appealing to Hindu religious leaders to speak out strongly against what he termed divisive politics.

The former MP also expressed concern over the Government's proposal to include the Kuruba community in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category. He stressed that any community seeking ST classification must meet specific social, educational and economic criteria.

"A thorough ethnographic study must be carried out, and only if the Kuruba community meets the necessary eligibility should its inclusion in the ST category be considered," Simha asserted.

'Goa casino, alcohol behind Uday's victory in Maddur'

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (BLU&BCT)- Responding sharply to derogatory remarks made against him by Maddur MLA K.M. Uday, former MP Prathap Simha hit back, alleging that Uday won his MLA seat by entertaining people with alcohol and card games at a Goa casino.

Taking strong exception to Uday's comments, Simha said, "I did not become an MP by serving drinks and playing cards with people in a casino." He further alleged that the MLA's statements sounded like they were made "under the influence at a casino table."

Mocking Uday's understanding of public discourse, Simha remarked, "It seems he cannot tell the difference between a casino table, a gambling table and a press conference table."

Referring to the recent stone-pelting incident during a Ganesha procession and the subsequent unrest in Maddur, Simha added, "Had Uday been present there, the public would have given him a fitting lesson. He should first understand his responsibilities before making such reckless statements."

Caste survey to begin on Monday

Bengaluru, Sept. 20- A day after the State Cabinet saw divisions over the Social, Economic and Educational survey, popularly known as caste census, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday ruled out any postponement and said that the exercise would start as scheduled from Sept. 22 and held till Oct. 7.

Speaking to presspersons here yesterday, Siddaramaiah asserted that the Government will not entertain any demands for postponement. We are not going to delay the caste census for any reason, he added.

Defending his refusal to intervene, the CM said "The permanent Backward Classes Commission, which is conducting the survey, is a Constitutional and independent body and cannot be told to do anything by the State Government. It is the Commission's independent decision which we cannot interfere".

Siddaramaiah's assertion came a day after reports that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and Horticulture Minister S.S. Mallikarjun had at Thursday's Cabinet meeting urged for a postponement, citing various reasons.

However, Siddaramaiah downplayed the differences, saying that, in fact, he had asked his Cabinet colleagues to counter the BJP and other opponents of the survey who are trying to discredit the entire exercise. Some Cabinet Ministers had expressed their own opinions at the Cabinet meeting and that's all, he added.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka High Court on Friday ordered issuance of notice to the State Government on a batch of PILs filed challenging the Social and Educational Survey by the State Government, commencing on Sept. 22.

The Petitioners contended that the survey amounted to a caste census which falls exclusively within the domain of the Union Government under Entry 69, List-1 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

A Division Bench of Justices Anu Sivaraman and K. Rajesh Rai directed the matter to be listed on Monday. It also ordered issuance of notices to Karnataka State Backward classes Commission and the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.

Social, Economic Survey

Training held for enumerators and supervisors in city

A master trainer conducting a training session for the enumerators from Mysuru, in view of Caste Survey, at Kalamandira in city this morning.

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (RK&TRR)- With Social, Economic and Backward Classes survey (Caste Survey), set to commence from Sept. 22, the Permanent Backward Classes Commission had organised a day-long training for about 1,500 enumerators and supervisors, at Kalamandira here today.

The enumerators are basically teachers and graduates who are working at Anganwadi Centres, who have been drafted to carry out the survey in Mysuru taluk.

Three Master Trainers, who were earlier imparted training by the Backward Classes Commission at Bengaluru, saw the participation of enumerators and supervisors in two batches of 750 each spread over two sessions.

Master Trainers Prakash, Revanna and Anantharam explained the modalities of carrying out the survey, questions to be asked, the documentation process and what all to be done in case houses are locked and others aspects of the survey work.

This survey is meant to gather data on the social, educational and economical status of Backward Classes in the State.

Ashappa, Asst. Commissioner of Mysuru Sub-Division, presided. Krishna Executive Officer, Mysuru Taluk Panchayat, Mahesh Kumar, Tahsildar, Mysuru Taluk and others were present.

VFC to represent Mysuru Division in State-level Dasara Tournament

Seen are Vijayanagar Football Club (VFC) players — *(standing from left)* ***H.N. Hruthik Gowda, S. Shreyas, Gagan R. Patel, Jishnu H. Das, D.V. Praveen Raju (Head Coach), M.S. Preetham, Sharath Singh, R. Akshay and Mayur Kshetragyna;*** *(front row from left)* ***Rahul Singh, S. Keerthan, S. Sachidananda, T.V. Irfan, B. Sumukh, Rishabh Cariappa, Shaun Kumar and Harshith P. Gowda.***

Mysuru, Sept. 20- Vijayanagar Football Club (VFC) has qualified to represent Mysuru Division in the upcoming State-level Dasara Football Tournament to be held in Mysuru.

The team has had a stellar run through the taluk, district and division levels. VFC began their winning journey at the taluk level, securing a 1-0 win against Vijayanagar Football Academy in the semi-finals and beating Ganesha Football Club in penalties 1(5)-1(4) in the finals.

At the district-level, VFC representing Mysuru taluk thrashed Periyapatna 8-1, got a walkover against K.R. Nagar, and beat Sargur in a tiebreaker 0(5)-0(4) in the finals.

In the division-level held in Hassan district, VFC representing Mysuru district got a walkover against Udupi, beat defending champions Madikeri in penalties 0(4)-0(2) in the semi-finals, and dominated Hassan 4-0 in the finals.

VFC recently won the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA) C Division League in July 2025, earning promotion to B Division. The team is now geared up to represent Mysuru Division in the prestigious State-level Dasara Tournament which is going to be held in University grounds, Mysuru.

Mysore Palace gears up for Khas Durbar

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (MTY&VNS)- As part of Dasara festivities from Sept. 22 to Oct. 2, the preparations at the Mysore Palace for this year's Khas Durbar (Private Durbar) and Navaratri celebrations are in full swing.

The Private Durbar begins with titular head of Mysore Royal Family Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, who is also the Mysuru-Kodagu MP, adorning the Golden Throne on Sept. 22.

The Palace authorities have already assembled the Golden Throne at the Durbar Hall and the Silver Bhadrasana has been set up Kannadi Thotti within the Mysore Palace premises.

The Khas Durbar will officially begin with the 'Enne Shastra' (oil bath) ceremony for Yaduveer on Sept. 22 early morning. This will be followed by attaching the Lion Head (Simhada Tale) to the Golden Throne between 5.30 am and 5.45 am. Later, between 9.55 am and 10.15 am, 'Kankana Dharane' will be done to Yaduveer Wadiyar at Chamundi Thotti and Trishikha Kumari Wadiyar at Vani Vilasa Devara Mane.

As part of rituals, at 11.45 am, Pattada Aane (Royal Elephant), Pattada Kudure (Royal Horse), Pattada Hasu (Royal Cow) and Camel will be brought to the Palace from Kodi Someshwara Temple and Kodi Bhyraveshwara Temple in the Palace premises, accompanied by women carrying kalasa on their heads.

Following this, Kalasa Puja and Simhasana Puja will be performed, after which Yaduveer will ascend the throne during an auspicious time between 12.42 pm and 12.58 pm. Later, the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari will be taken in a procession from Chamundi Thotti to Kannadi Thotti between 2.05 pm to 2.10 pm.

Private Durbar will be held every evening from Sept. 23 to 29.

Saraswathi & Ayudha Puja

Yaduveer Wadiyar will perform Saraswathi Puja on Sept. 29 between 10.10 am and 10.30 am. The same day after the Private Durbar, he will perform Kalaratri Puja at Kannadi Thotti and Durgashtami Puja on Sept. 30.

On the day of Ayudha Puja on Oct. 1, Yaduveer Wadiyar will perform Chandi Homa at 6 am for which the Purnahuti will be held at 9.15 am. On the same day, between 7.30 am and 7.42 am, the Pattada Kathi (Royal Sword) and private weapons will be sent to Kodi Someshwara Temple along with Royal Elephant, Royal Horse, Camel through Aane Bagilu. Later, all the weapons will be brought back to the Kalyana Mantap at the Palace premises from the temple between 8 am and 8.40 am. Later, Ayudha Puja rituals will commence at Kalyana Mantap at 10.30 am after the Royal Elephant, Cow, Horse & Camel are brought to the Palace.

Following the Khas Durbar on Oct. 1 evening, Lion Head (Simhada Tale) will be removed from the Golden Throne. Later, both Yaduveer Wadiyar and Trishikha Wadiyar will untie the Kankana from their hands at puja room and perform Dastar Puja after having the *darshan* of Amalu Devate Amma to mark the end of this year's Khas Durbar.

On Oct. 2 (Vijayadashami), Uttara Puja will be performed from 10 am soon after Patta Aane arrives at Palace. Following this, Yaduveer Wadiyar will go on Vijaya Yatre between 10.50 am and 11.10 am and the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari will be taken in a procession from Kannadi Thotti to Chamundi Thotti. Following this, *Jumboo Savari* rituals will begin at Palace premises.

Debutant Sugreeva wins praises

Billed as future howdah carrier, Dasara elephant carries Wooden Howdah regally

After the elephants Abhimanyu and Mahendra, elephant Sugreeva was picked to carry the Wooden Howdah. Considering his debut in carrying the Wooden Howdah, the total weight mounted on the elephant was reduced by 150-kg. The next in line for similar practice are elephants Dhananjaya and Prashanth. These elephants are considered as the future howdah carriers and are responding well. **—DCF Dr. I.B. Prabhu Gowda.**

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (SBD&BS)- In his debut attempt, Dasara elephant Sugreeva carried Wooden Howdah with ease on *Jumboo Savari* route, from Palace to Bannimantap in the city yesterday, completing the gigantic task in one-and-a-half hours, winning over the appreciation of Forest Department personnel.

Participating in Dasara for the third year, Sugreeva remained calm and composed, ambling along the *Jumboo Savari* route, carrying the weight of 600-kg on his back, including 280-kg weight of Wooden Howdah.

With his unfettered poise, Sugreeva emerged as a ray of hope for the future, with Forest Department zeroing in on the elephants, to acclimatise them with the task of carrying 750-kg Golden Howdah in the future, the main attraction of *Jumboo Savari* procession.

For record, Sugreeva is also the heaviest among 14 Dasara elephants, weighing 5,545-kg, though he arrived in the second batch. Till his arrival, Bheema who came in the first batch, enjoyed the tag of being the heaviest, by weighing 5,465-kg.

At about 4.30 pm in the evening, Sugreeva was coaxed towards the manual crane installed in front of the residential wing of the erstwhile Mysore Royal Family. The Wooden Howdah was mounted on the elephant, along with additional weights, before setting out on a practice walk. With female elephants Cauvery and Hemavathi selected as Kumki elephants, Sugreeva enjoying the company of female elephants, went around the Palace, before exiting the Palace Fort through North Gate at about 4.45 pm.

The other elephants — howdah carrier designate Abhimanyu, Mahendra, Gopi, Bheema, Srikanta, Roopa, Dhananjaya, Lakshmi, Prashanth, Kanjan and Ekalavya, followed Sugreeva, in a disciplined manner.

Though it began to rain, the elephants remained undisturbed, following the command of their mahouts, that served as a perfect entertainment for the bystanders, who had firmly occupied the either side of *Jumboo Savari* route, passing through Albert Victor Road, K.R. Circle, Sayyaji Rao Road, New Sayyaji Rao Road and Bamboo Bazar, before culminating at Bannimantap, the end point of the procession.

The practice of carrying Wooden Howdah, marks the final leg of preparation for the D-day. It began on Sept. 15, with howdah carrier designate Abhimanyu, carrying the Wooden Howdah and sand bags, totalling 750-kg. After two days, on Sept. 18, elephant Mahendra successfully performed the task of carrying the Howdah. Sugreeva, the third elephant in the row to handle the strenuous task, did it with ease, albeit the total weight of sand bags on his back was reduced by 150-kg, considering his maiden attempt.

Now, Forest Department is preparing elephants Dhananjaya and Prashanth to carry the Wooden Howdah.

Science Activities Programme held for children of Mahouts, Kavadis

Mysuru, Sept. 20- The Gravity Science Foundation, Chamarajanagar, with team Aikyam, had organised a special Science Activities Programme for the children of Mahouts and Kavadis of Dasara Jumbos, at the temporary Tent School set up inside the Mysore Palace premises.

To inspire the children of Mahouts, A.S. Abhishek, Founder-Secretary of Gravity Science Foundation, conducted interactive sessions aimed at nurturing scientific curiosity and creativity.

The programme featured hands-on experiments, demonstrations and fun-filled learning activities, enabling the children to experience the joy of science beyond textbooks. Emphasis was placed on simple concepts of everyday science, encouraging the children to connect their learning with daily life.

As a part of ISRO's Space Tutor, The Gravity Science Foundation distributed the Satellite paper models, Posters, Books to the students which are published by ISRO.

Somaraju and M. Gayathri from Gravity Science Foundation, Sukrutha & team from Aikyam, teachers and students were present on the occasion.

Apollo BGS Hospitals holds mock drill for Dasara emergency preparedness

Mysuru, Sept. 20- Apollo BGS Hospitals, Mysuru, conducted an 'Emergency Preparedness Mock Drill' to ensure readiness for any medical emergency, including potential stampede-related incidents, during the upcoming Dasara festivities.

The mock drill was carried out under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. P. Shivaraju along with Sudheer of the DC Office and Dr. Mohammed Siraj, District RCH Officer as official observers.

The exercise simulated real-life emergency scenarios to evaluate rapid response, triage systems and coordination among hospital staff, ambulance services, doctors, nurses, and paramedics.

Dasara attracts thousands of visitors from across the country and abroad, making emergency preparedness a critical requirement, said Dr. Shivaraju adding "Apollo BGS Hospitals' proactive initiative is truly commendable. The staff executed the mock drill with such precision and realism that it felt like an actual emergency response. I encourage other institutions to undertake similar activities to ensure public safety during major such events." Dr. Mohammed Siraj and Sudheer also praised the hospital team's performance.

Speaking on behalf of the hospital, the management stated, "The safety of the people of Mysuru and visitors during Dasara is our top priority. This mock drill highlights our preparedness and collaboration with district authorities to ensure world-class emergency response when needed."

For medical help, dial 1066, supported by Apollo's 5G-connected Smart Ambulance network, said N.G. Bharateesha Reddy, Vice-President & Unit Head, Apollo BGS Hospitals.

Rare keyhole surgery at DRM saves baby with respiratory tumour

Mysuru, Sept. 20- DRM Multispeciality Hospital, Vontikoppal, has performed the first thoracoscopic lobectomy for a rare and complex congenital lung condition in this region.

The baby, the couple's first child, had a rare hybrid lesion of the right lower lobe — Congenital Cystic Adenomatoid Malformation (CCAM) and Sequestration.

Initially advised to terminate the pregnancy, the couple had almost decided to abort. However, seeking a second opinion brought them to DRM Hospital, where doctors reassured them that surgery could be performed after delivery.

Paediatric Surgeon Dr. S.R. Avinash, addressing media persons at the hospital on Thursday, said that the baby girl was delivered safely under the care of Gynaecologist and Obstetrician Dr. Bindu Balasubramanian and Paediatrician Dr. Sharath Keerthi.

For the first few months, the child showed no signs of respiratory distress or infection. However, a CT scan at six months revealed the tumour, prompting preparations for a highly sensitive surgery.

Surgeons opted for a thoracoscopic lower lobectomy — a minimally invasive keyhole surgery — instead of the conventional open thoracotomy, which requires a large incision.

Despite technological challenges, Dr. Avinash and Dr. K.S. Kumar, along with their expert team, successfully removed the tumour. Dr. Santosh G. Rao and Dr. Rajat handled anaesthesia management.

Anaesthesia and Emergency Unit Head Dr. M.O. Santosh, DRM Hospital Managing Director Dr. B.H. Manjunath, D.T. Prakash, B.A. Suhas, S.S. Chidu and other team members were present at the press meet.

Walkmate supports Blood Donation Drive

Mysuru, Sept. 20- Akhil Bhartiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad, along with Rotary Mysore and with the support of more than 20 organisations across the city, had organised a Mega Blood Donation Drive on Sept. 17.

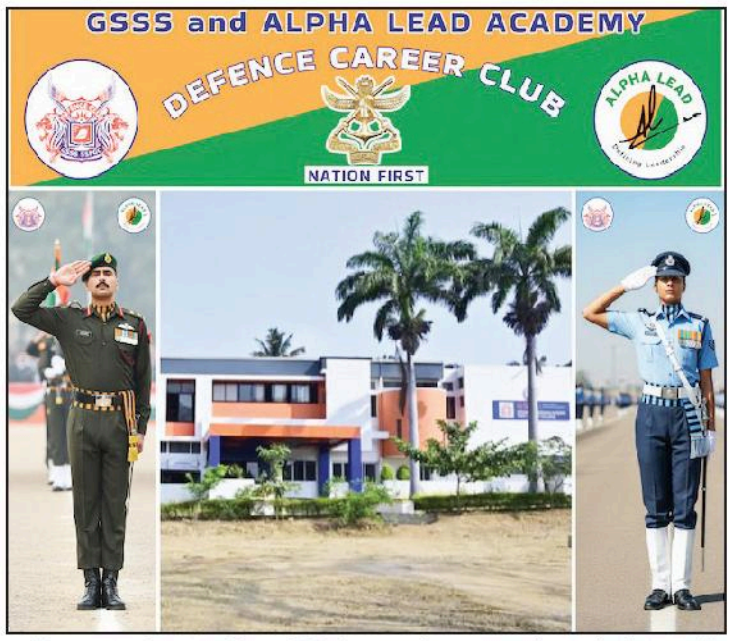
Walkmate Footwear was also among the key participating organisations. The inauguration of blood donation drive at Walkmate Corporate Office took place on Sept. 17, in the presence of Bastian Joseph, Managing Director of Walkmate Footwear, Ravishankar, President of Rotary Mysore, Rotarians, Rotaract Mysore representatives and Walkmate employees.

A remarkable highlight of the drive was that over 80% of the blood donors were women employees, reflecting both social responsibility and the growing awareness among women about the importance of saving lives through blood donation.

Speaking on the occasion, Walkmate Footwear's management emphasised that such initiatives strengthen society by encouraging individuals and organisations to step forward for the greater good.

Defence Career Club launch at GSSS campus

First-of-its-kind initiative in Mysuru dedicated to youths



Mysuru, Sept. 20- GSSS Group of Institutes, in collaboration with Alpha Lead Academy, will launch the Defence Career Club at its KRS Road campus, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the district of Mysuru, on Sept. 22.

The entire facility, including a fully developed Group Testing Obstacle (GTO) Ground and structured classrooms for defence training, will be housed at the GSSS First Grade College campus on KRS Road. This facility has been dedicated to the youths of Mysuru and adjoining districts (Mandya, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar) and is open to all aspirants across Karnataka who wish to pursue a career as Commissioned Officers in the Indian Army, Navy or Air Force.

This pioneering venture has been conceived with a patriotic vision: to revive the legacy of this region, which has historically produced some of India's bravest warriors and military leaders. From Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa and General K.S. Thimayya of Kodagu, to countless gallant soldiers from Mysuru and surrounding districts, this land has been home to brave hearts who served the nation with distinction. This Club seeks to rekindle that proud tradition and inspire a new generation to wear the uniform with honour.

The initiative is jointly spearheaded by Anupama Pandit from GSSS and Group Captain Abhinav Chaturvedi (Retd.), Founder and CEO of Alpha Lead Academy. The Defence Career Club will provide:

- Comprehensive training from the first year to the final year, preparing students for written examinations like NDA, CDS, AFCAT and CAPF.
- SSB interview readiness, led by retired Armed Forces officers with decades of experience in Officer Selection.
- A dedicated GTO ground where cadets will undergo structured physical/ group exercises.
- Flexible training durations, from 6 months to 3 years, ensuring holistic grooming alongside academic growth.

For registration and queries contact Mob: 90193-53966.

Dasara boost: Entry tax waiver for tourist vehicles from other States

Mysuru, Sept. 20 (BCT)- The Karnataka State Transport Department has announced that tourist vehicles from other States heading to Mysuru for the Dasara festival will be exempted from paying permit tax or entry tax.

This exemption, which takes effect on Sept. 22, will remain in force until the conclusion of the festivities on Oct. 2. The waiver aims to encourage a greater influx of tourists to Mysuru during the grand celebrations.

According to the official notification, the waiver applies exclusively to tourist vehicles entering Mysuru and Srirangapatna taluk in Mandya, which houses popular attractions such as Brindavan Gardens, KRS Dam and Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary.

The exemption covers only vehicles registered outside Karnataka that are operating under special permits. The Transport Department clarified that the move has been introduced in the public interest under provisions of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1957.

Only vehicles travelling specifically to Mysuru and Srirangapatna during this period will benefit from the tax break, provided they obtain the mandatory special permits.

SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Sangam Theatre** — **Ph: 2520494**
  Kamal Sridevi (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Ekka (K) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — **Mob: 99008-20093**
  Elumale (K) - 4 Shows
- **Gayathri Theatre** — **Ph: 2443568**
  Elumale (K) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — **Ph: 2422871**
  Mirai (K) - 2 Shows; Kiss (Ta) - 2 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — **Ph: 2423554**
  Shakthi Thirumagan (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — **Ph: 2521923**
  Thanal (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — **Mob: 98863-25207**
  Jolly LLB 3 (H) - 3 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — **Ph: 2420885**
  Su From So (K) - 2 Shows; *Thanal (Ta)* - 2 Shows

MOVIES AT DRC CINEMAS Ph: 4240422 4241800

Mirage (Ma)	(S-1)	10 am, 10 pm; (S-2) 3.50 pm
Elumale (K)	(S-1)	1.05 pm, 7 pm; (S-3) 9.55 pm
Arasayyana Prema Prasanga (K)	(S-1)	4.10 pm
Lokah: Chapter 1 - Chandra (Ma)	(S-2)	10.10 am
Thanal (Ta)	(S-2)	1.10 pm
Demon Slayer (Japanese)	(S-2)	7.10 pm; (S-4) 9.50 am, 12.55 pm
Beauty (Te)	(S-2)	10.15 pm
Jotheyagi Hithavagi (K)	(S-3)	10.15 am
Mahavatara Narasimha (K-3D)	(S-3)	1.20 pm
Sakthi Thirumagn (Ta)	(S-3)	4.05 pm
Kamal Sridevi (K)	(S-3)	7.15 pm
Jolly LLB 3 (H)	(S-4)	4 pm, 7.10 pm, 10.20 pm

MOVIES AT MYSURU VISION CINEMAS Ph: 2973519

Elumale (K)	(S-1)	1.20 pm; (S-2) 4.30 pm, 7.45 pm
Arasayyana Prema Prasanga (K)	(S-1)	3.55 pm
Mirai (K)	(S-1)	6.15 pm; (S-4) 1.30 pm
Lokah : Chapter 1 - Chandra (Ma)	(S-1)	9.30 pm
Jolly LLB 3 (H)	(S-2)	1.25 pm; (S-4) 6.55 pm, 9.50 pm
Soul Mates (K)	(S-3)	1.45 pm
Sing Song (Ta)	(S-3)	4.30 pm
Thanal (Ta)	(S-3)	6.55 pm
Kiss (Ta)	(S-3)	9.30 pm

MOVIES AT NEXUS MALL

Jolly LLB 3 (H)	:	9.30 am, 10.05 am, 12.45 pm 4 pm, 7.15 pm, 10.30 pm
Shakthi Thirumagan (Ta)	:	9.35 am, 9.45 pm
Kiss (Ta)	:	10 am, 3.40 pm
Lokah: Chapter 1 - Chandra (Ma)	:	10 am, 6.40 pm
Mirage (Ma)	:	10 am, 9.30 pm
A Big Bold Beautiful Journey (E)	:	12.45 pm, 8.05 pm
Beauty (Te)	:	12.45 pm
Afterburn (E)	:	12.55 pm
Demon Slayer (Japanese)	:	1 pm, 10.20 pm
Demon Slayer (English)	:	7.05 pm
Jotheyagi Hithavagi (K)	:	1.05 pm
Mirai (K)	:	3.10 pm, 6.35 pm
Mirai (Te)	:	10.30 pm
The Conjuring: Last Rites (E)	:	4.05 pm
Elumale (K)	:	4.15 pm
Nishaanchi (H)	:	4.30 pm, 10 pm
Kamal Sridevi (K)	:	6.55 pm

MOVIES AT GARUDA MALL

Jolly LLB 3 (H)	:	9 am, 12.15 pm, 3.30, 6.45, 10 pm
Demon Slayer (Japanese)	:	10 am, 3.50 pm
Kiss (Ta)	:	10.50 am, 10.30 pm
Mirai (K)	:	11.45 am
Mirai (Te)	:	7.05 pm
Elumale (K)	:	1 pm, 7.30 pm
Khaali Dabba (K)	:	1.50 pm
Shakthi Thirumagan (Ta)	:	3.10 pm
Soul Mates (K)	:	4.40 pm
Arasayyana Prema Prasanga (K)	:	7.35 pm
Son of Muthanna (K)	:	10.10 pm
The Conjuring: Last Rites (E)	:	10.20 pm

EVENTS TODAY (SEPT. 20)

- **Mysuru Puppet Theatre:** Puppet Show, Shiva Buddi, Gamaka & Master Puppet Artist from Halleer, Nanjangud, inaugurates, Satyanarayana, Master Puppet Artist from Agalakote, Magadi, chief guest, **4 pm;** Show 'Sri Krishna Parijatha' by Vinayaka Sutra Mela, Founded by Master Puppeteer late Narasinga Rao, Mysuru Puppet Theatre, beside Kaladevi Doll Museum, in front of Mysuru Zoo, **4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.**
- **Mysuru Photo Journalist Association (MPJA):** Dasara Photo Expo-2025, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa inaugurates, journalist & MLC K. Shivakumar presides, Suchitra Art Gallery, Kalamandira premises, **4 pm.**
- **Mysuru Vishwavidyanilaya Hiriya Vidyarthigala Okkuta, Prasaranga, University of Mysore (UoM):** Releasing of book 'Kyataiahna Kavanagalu,' a poetry collection of Rahul Kumbarahalli; Mysuru District Congress Committee President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar releases the book, Kriya Samsthe Founder Prof. Prasannakumar Keragodu inaugurates the event, Prasaranga Director Prof. M. Nanjaiah Honganur presides, Kuvempu auditorium, Prasaranga premises, UoM, **4 pm.**
- **Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha:** Suresh Mohan Memorial Nadakishorotsava, flute concert by Shreya Bharath, accompanied by Prerana Praveen and Bhuvan, **4 pm;** Vocal by Dattaprasad Avadhooth, accompanied by Ratna Teja and Pranav Subramanya, **5 pm;** Vocal by B.R. Abhishek Simhan, accompanied by Srivatsa and Yashas, **6 pm;** Vocal by G. Soorya, accompanied by Sri Lalitha and Pranav Subramanya, Sabha premises, JLB Road, **7 pm to 8 pm.**
- **Kalasuruchi:** 'Kathe Kelona Banni-898,' story-telling by Dr. G.A. Subbulakshmi, retd. Professor, MES Kishora Kendra, Bengaluru, Suruchi Rangamane, #476, Chitrabhanu Road, Kuvempunagar, **4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.** [Mob: 92435-81097]
- **Suyog Hospital, Suyog Nursing College and Suyog Clinical Society:** 'Adhyatmika Chintana-Mantana' lecture by noted author, teacher and philosopher Yogi Srinivas Arka; Senior journalist and MLC K. Shivakumar inaugurates, Suyog Hospital Chairman Dr. S.P. Yoganna presides, Suyog Hospital Trustee Sudha Yoganna will be present, Suyog Hospital premises, Ramakrishnanagar, **4.30 pm.**
- **Gahana - The Rhythm of Heats:** Gaana Parva-2, Platinum Jubilee auditorium, J.K. Grounds, **5 pm.**
- **BSS Vidyodaya and Raaga Music Academy:** Bhagini Raga Saurabha, vocal concert by Vidu. Archana Koviladi, accompanied by Vidu. Aditi Krishnaprakash on violin, Vid. G.S. Ramanujam on mridanga and Vid. Sharath Kaushik on ghata, BSS Vidyodaya, Krishnamurthypuram, **6 pm.**
- **Sri Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority:** Sri Krishnotsava, Alankara Utsava, Yamalarjuna Moksha, Sri Prasanna Krishnaswamy Temple, Palace premises, **6 pm.**
- **Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Mysuru, BVB Bengaluru and Infosys Foundation, Bengaluru:** 151st Cultural Outreach Programme, 'Bharatanatya: Nrutya Vaibhava' by Shraddha Dance Ensemble (Shama Krishna and her disciples), BVB premises, Vijayanagar 1st Stage, **6 pm.**
- **Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust:** Karnatak classical vocal concert by Vidushi Dr. Surabhi Pusthakam, accompanied by Vidu. C.V. Shruthi on violin and Vid. Puttur Nikshith on mridanga, Sri Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple, SBM Colony, Srirampura, **6 pm.**
- **Samathentho Mysuru:** Staging of mono act 'Neermadala Hoovinondige' by Indira Nair, inspired by the writings of Kamala Das, the play is directed by Dr. Sripad Bhat, Ganabharathi, Veene Seshanna Bhavan, Kuvempunagar, **6.30 pm.**
- **Sri Krishna Ganasabha:** Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations, dance programme by Dr. Nagalakshmi Nagarajan and her disciples (Champaka Academy, Mysuru), Alwar Kala Bhavan, Gokulam, **6.30 pm.**
- **Gemini Circus:** Inauguration of shows by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, MLAs Tanveer Sait and T.S. Srivatsa chief guests, Horse Park Grounds, near Karanji Lake, **6.30 pm.**
- **Avadhoota Datta Peetham:** 4k Projection Mapping on 45-ft tall Karya Siddhi Hanuman statue, Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda (SGS) Ashram, Dattanagar, Nanjangud Road, **(3 Shows) 7.10 pm, 7.40 pm and 8.10 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (SEPT. 21)

- **Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha:** Suresh Mohan Memorial Nadakishorotsava 2025, flute concert by Vibhav Omkar Gayatri, accompanied by Srivatsa and Yashas, **9 am;** Keerthana Narasimhan, accompanied by Sri Lalitha and Shubhang, **10 am;** Vocal concert by R.S. Manoj, accompanied by Amogh Nadadur and Bhuvan, **11 am;** Flute concert by Sumeru V. Sakaleshpur, accompanied by Srivatsa and Shubhang, Sabha premises, JLB Road, **12 noon to 1 pm.**
- **Mysuru District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Women's Unit and Mysuru District Chutuku Sahitya Parishat:** Dasara Chutuku Kavigoshti, Kannada Book Authority Chairman Manasa inaugurates, Chutuku Sahitya Parishat Central Committee President Thontadarya distributes certificates, Mysuru District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President Maddikere Gopal, retd. Superintendent of Posts K. Obaiah, Mysuru District Chutuku Sahitya Parishat President Chutukusiri Ratna Halappa Gowda and Chutuku Yugacharya Dr. MGR Urs will be present, Mysuru District Kannada Sahitya Parishat premises, Vijayanagar, **10 am.**
- **Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi:** Gandhi Shilp Bazaar, exhibition-cum-sale, JSS Mysore Urban Haat, **10.30 am to 9 pm.**
- **Mysore Literary Association:** Talk on 'Bharat's Journey Towards NET ZERO - Contribution of Biofuels and its Evolving Ecosystem' by Y.B. Ramakrishna, Senior Vice-President, Indian Federation of Green Energy, Member, Biofuel Monitoring Committee, MNRE, Govt. of India, Kalpa Kshetra, #581/1, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, 1st Phase, **11 am.** [Mob: 94498-19536]
- **Mysuru Photo Journalist Association:** Dasara Photo Expo, Suchitra Art Gallery, Kalamandira, **11 am to 9 pm.**
- **Gemini Circus:** 3 shows — Horse Park Grounds, near Karanji Lake, **1 pm, 4 pm and 7 pm.**
- **Mysuru Puppet Theatre:** Puppet Show 'Sri Krishna Parijatha' by Vinayaka Sutra Mela, Founded by Master Puppeteer late Narasinga Rao, Mysuru Puppet Theatre, beside Kaladevi Doll Museum, in front of Mysuru Zoo, **4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.**
- **Sri Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority:** Sri Krishnotsava, Alankara Utsava, Mohini Alankara, Sri Prasanna Krishnaswamy Temple, Palace premises, **6 pm.**
- **Sri Krishna Ganasabha:** Vocal music concert by Vid. G.K. Manamohan, accompanied by Vidu. C.V. Shruthi on violin, Vidu. Ranjani Venkatesh on mridanga and Vid. S. Manjunath on ghata, Alwar Kala Bhavan, Gokulam, **6.30 pm.**
- **Himalaya Pratishtana, Mysuru and District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru:** Releasing of books 'Dr. Neel Kulkarni Avara Adhiyoga Sutragalu' (a Kannada Translation) and 'Adhiyoga Purana' (English), authored by noted Yoga Teacher Dr. Neel Kulkarni; Arkadhama Founder Srinivasa Arka inaugurates the event and releases the books, BVB Mysuru Treasurer Dr. A.T. Bhashyam speaks about the books, Parishat Mysuru President Maddikere Gopal presides, Parishat premises, Vijayanagar, **6.30 pm.**
- **Avadhoota Datta Peetham:** 4k Projection Mapping on 45-ft tall Karya Siddhi Hanuman statue, Sri Ganapathy Ashram, Nanjangud Road, **7.10 pm, 7.40 pm and 8.10 pm.**

MOVIES AT MALL OF MYSORE

Elumale (K)	:	10 pm
Shakthi Thirumagan (Ta)	:	10.10 pm
Mirage (Ma)	:	10.20 pm

MOVIES AT CENTRO MALL

Jolly LLB 3 (H)	:	9.40 am, 12.55 pm, 7.15 pm, 10.30 pm
Demon Slayer (E)	:	10 am, 7 pm
Khaali Dabba (K)	:	10.20 am
Shakthi Thirumagan (Ta)	:	11.30 am, 3.45 pm
Kamal Sridevi (K)	:	1.10 pm
Soul Mates (K)	:	1.15 pm
Nishaanchi (H)	:	2.45 pm
Mirage (Ma)	:	4.10 pm, 10 pm
Arasayyana Prema Prasanga (K)	:	4.20 pm
Kiss (Ta)	:	7 pm
Jotheyagi Hithavagi (K)	:	7.30 pm
Mirai (Te)	:	10.10 pm
Lokah: Chapter 1 - Chandra (Ma)	:	10.20 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

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